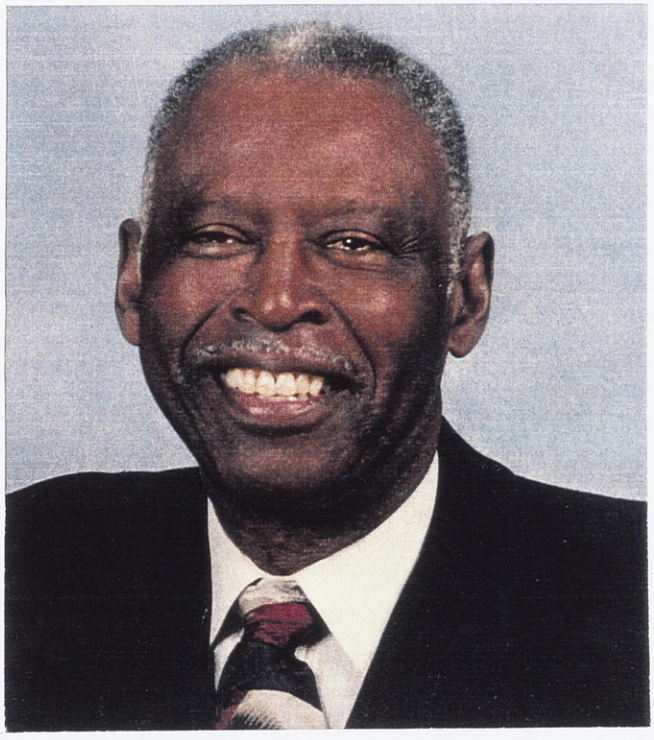
Homegoing Celebration

for

Elder Edieu Frederick McNeil

Sunrise:
June 25, 1919

Sunset:
August 11, 1998



But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Wednesday, August 19, 1998
10:30 A.M.

McGlothen Temple Church of God in Christ
1443 Filbert Street Richmond, CA 94801

Administrative Assistant John A. Jennings, Pastor Officiating

The Obituary: Reflections of a Celebrated Life

Elder Edieu Frederick McNeil, a servant of the Lord, became one of the most recent ancestors after succumbing to a seven-year battle with cancer. Elder McNeil died peacefully at his home on August 11, 1998 after 79 years of life. He was born in Bagdad, Florida on June 25, 1919 as the third son of Artemous McNeil of South Carolina and Daisy Lewis of Florida. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, who cared for him in sickness with love and compassion; his four sons: Leon McNeil of Fairfield, Leonard McNeil of Davis, Joseph McNeil of Hayward and Wayne McNeil of San Jose; sister Mary Ester McNeil-Johnson of Phoenix and brother Joseph Lee McNeil of Houston; nine grandsons - Darvin McNeil from Oakland, Marcus and Keith McNeil of South San Francisco, Yusef McNeil of Vallejo, Joseph McNeil, Jr. of Atlanta, Robert McNeil of Richmond, Steven and Joseph Aaron McNeil of Hayward and Ashanti McNeil of San Francisco; four granddaughters - Carmen McNeil-Jackson of San Pablo, Cheryl McNeil-Rogers of Virginia, LaTanya McNeil-Jones of El Cerrito and Megan McNeil of Oakland; and two great grandchildren, Ashley and Brittney; and many relatives and friends. Elder McNeil departed this world with several Goddaughters: Gladys Roberts of Atlanta, Georgia, Demetria Foster of Richmond, Linda Douglas of Pinole, Sandra DeVille of Richmond, Viola Turner of Los Angeles, Collette Johnson of Richmond, Opal Mason of Oakland and Renee Winston of San Francisco. He also leaves behind a God-sister, Mother Leola Bryant. Three of his brothers, Artemous McNeil, Jr., James Peter McNeil and Isaac McNeil were previously deceased.

He was reared in Stamps, Arkansas and Shreveport, Louisiana. He moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1939 during the Second Great Migration of African-Americans relocating from the South for economic improvement. In October 1941, he married Helen S. Gans and together they reared their four sons in North Richmond and San Pablo. They were married for 45 years. Helen McNeil passed in May of 1986 after a long illness. In September 1991, he married Elizabeth Carlisle who gave him companionship, happiness and love until he passed away.

Elder McNeil was honorably discharged from military service in 1943 after serving in the United States Army during World War II. He held a lifetime association with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Union Local #152, having completed 50 years of continuous membership. The Nimitz Freeway, John F. Kennedy High School, Bay Area Rapid Transit and the Hilltop Shopping Center were among the construction projects he worked on. He was a carpenter for 31 years until he retired in 1977.

Despite having only a fourth grade education, he enrolled in night classes to earn a GED. After securing a high school diploma, he took evening classes at Contra Costa College while working full-time in preparation for his general contractor's license. He earned an A.A. Degree at the community college. After he passed the examination for a general contractor, he established McNeil and Son Contractors. Elder McNeil completed construction of a home designed by his son, Leon.

Although he was very proud of what he created with his hands, his devotion to God and the McGlothen Temple Church of God in Christ gave him the most honor. His religious journey of 61 years of ministry began under his Evangelist father, Artemous McNeil, Sr. who founded the Three in One Church of God in Christ, now called Bryant Temple Church of God in Christ in Shreveport, Louisiana. He began his ministry at the age of 18 under the pastorship of his father. When he came to the Bay Area, he served under the late Bishop E.E. Hamilton at the Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in San Francisco. He mentored under the tutelage of the late Bishop Finley at the Good Samaritan Church of God in Christ in Oakland. In the early 1940's, he became a member of the McGlothen Temple Church of God in Christ in Richmond, California serving under Bishop G.W. McGlothen and Bishop Clarence Davis. In March 1994, he was appointed First Assistant Pastor of McGlothen Temple Church by Pastor John A. Jennings whom he served under for 11 years. He joined others in making a joyful noise during devotional service and in the church choir. Since 1989, Elder McNeil served as the Chairman of the Dr. Mattie McGlothen Library Museum Committee.

Through his belief in the Holy Scripture, he was not passively pious. Brother Mac, as he was affectionately called, was a learner, a doer and a teacher who served others through the Young Men's Christian Council as well as outreach ministry at the Martinez Jail, performing weddings and providing bereavement comfort. As a former North Richmond resident and property owner, he was actively involved in efforts to rid the neighborhood of illegal drugs and its attendant crime. He was actively involved in establishing the first African-American principal at Verde Elementary School. For many years he was the scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 325. He was a staunch fighter against racial discrimination. He loved the outdoors and sports.

Elder Mac's life serves as an example of purpose, commitment to faith and giving earnestly from the heart. He helped others deal with trials and tribulations with calm assurance through his counseling. Elder McNeil left this world with the inner peace of knowing that he lived a life of righteousness with God as his refuge and strength. His absence makes clear what his presence meant.

Order of Service

Bishop J.W. Macklin, Master of Ceremonies

Prelude	Elder Dennis Braxton
Processional	Clergy and Family
Invocation	Elder Richard Foster
Scriptures	
Old Testament - Psalm 90	Elder Frank Mitchell
New Testament - I Corinthians 15:12-28	Elder Robert D. Smith
Selection	McGlothen Temple Sanctuary Choir
Words of Expression (3 Minutes)	Family and Friends
Tributes to the Triumphant	
Young Men's Christian Council	Superintendent Anderson Hines, Sr.
Prison Ministry	Elder William Carlisle
Longtime Friend	Bishop J.C. Jenkins
Solo	Sister Renee Winston
Special Expressions	
Mothers' Board	Mother Willie Mae Johnson
Men's Department	Deacon Rufus Robinson
Department Leaders and Auxiliaries	Mother Etta B. Graves
District Women's Department	District Missionary Martha B. Hall
Jurisdictional Department of Women	Mother Louise Perrodin, Supervisor
Words of Encouragement from the Clergy	
Representing the Ministers	Minister Ronald Huey
Representing the Elders	Elder Jesse Legree
Representing the Pastors	Elder Lacy Douglas
Representing the Superintendents	Superintendent Norris Howard
Selection *"Order My Steps"*	McGlothen Temple Sanctuary Choir
Resolutions	
McGlothen Temple Church	Sister Brenda Shephard, General Secretary
Greater Richmond District	Missionary Victoria S. Williams
Selection	McGlothen Temple Male Chorus
Obituary and Acknowledgment of Condolences	Sister Emma J. Clark
Sermonic Solo	Evangelist Mary Willard
Eulogy	Pastor John A. Jennings
Departing View	Rose Manor Funeral Staff
Recessional	
Postlude	Elder Dennis Braxton and Choir

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

Pallbearers

Deacon John Walker
Deacon Walter Robinson
Brother Josh Evans

Elder Robert D. Smith
Elder Raphael Douglas
Elder Bruce Darden, Sr.

Honorary Pallbearers

McGlothen Temple Deacons and Clergy
McGlothen Temple Male Chorus
California Northwest Young Men's Christian Council

Flower Bearers

Dr. Mattie McGlothen Library/Museum Committee Members

Acknowledgments of Appreciation

A precious one from us has gone, a voice we love is still. A place is vacant in our hearts that never can be filled. The family of Elder Edieu McNeil takes this opportunity to thank each of you for every expression and acts of kindness shown during his illness and at our time of loss. We thank you for attendance at his Homegoing Celebration. We ask for your continued prayers and may God bless you.

The Family

Return of the Mortal Creature to the Earth...Awaiting the Rapture

Interment

Rolling Hills Memorial Park

Funeral Services Entrusted to:

Rose Manor Funeral Service
3331 Macdonald Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 235-9143